

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 15, 2002 CONTACT: Martha Deacon
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NASHVILLE -- The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development today announced that the U.S. Department of Labor has approved a petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Athens Furniture. The petition covers all workers of the company in Athens who produced furniture.

Trade Adjustment Assistance is a program administered in Tennessee for the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The program offers assistance to workers whose jobs have been adversely affected by imports from foreign competitors. The certification by the USDOL applies to layoffs, which began on June 1, 2001, and will remain in effect until January 22, 2004, when the petition expires.

Under the provisions of the law, TAA allows for retraining while workers are still receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits. Two separate 26-week periods of trade benefits may be obtained for workers while enrolled in approved training after regular unemployment insurance benefits have been exhausted. Workers, who would not benefit from retraining, may receive only one 26-week period of trade benefit payments. The program also provides allowances for attempting to secure new employment in other areas and relocating to the new place of employment. Specific instructions will be provided to affected workers through their local Labor and Workforce Development office.

Claims for the assistance will be taken on Monday through Thursday, February 25-28, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Athens Fellowship Hall, 302 Washington Avenue West, in Athens. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has sent notices to former employees informing them when they are scheduled to report.

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The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

El Departamento del Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral de Tennessee (Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development) es un patrono que ofrece igualdad de empleo. Ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para individuos con impedimentos.